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Sharing Redeemer's Story



Understanding Our Place in Creation

THE ROLE OF THE SCIENCES AT REDEEMER

Putting Science in its (Proper) Place



Dr. Justin Cooper, President

“In our contemporary culture perhaps we have become too influenced by an overemphasis on scientific-technological prowess, a tendency that has the potential to threaten our humanity and our Christian faith.”

Did you know that the sciences are an area of strength for Redeemer University College! As you read the features in this issue of *Images*, you will see that the sciences are an essential part of the Christian liberal arts and science program we are so well known for. But you may be surprised at the range of programs we offer in the sciences, the kinds of research that is taking place and the success of our science graduates.

One of our challenges at Redeemer is to change the general perception of the sciences in the Christian community. Whereas in our wider society there is an emphasis on the sciences as the key to a research and innovation agenda, the opposite is often the case in our own circles. Somehow the sciences do not receive the attention and emphasis that they deserve compared to other areas of academic endeavour. There seems to be a hesitation to take up this area of study, even though we confess that this creation was made by God and belongs to him!

In our contemporary culture perhaps we have become too influenced by an overemphasis on scientific-technological prowess, a tendency that has the potential to threaten our humanity and our Christian faith. In this context, Christians need to avoid becoming alienated and withdrawing from the sciences out of a fear of being caught up in a false orientation that is hostile to our Creator God.

Instead, we must be busy working to rediscover the proper place and calling of scientific inquiry as one of God's created gifts. At Redeemer we seek to provide our students with a well grounded science education in the context of a Biblical worldview that can lead to teaching, graduate study or a professional position. In fact, our sciences division has the strongest record of graduate placement of any division at Redeemer!

Our programs have an excellent reputation for their strong laboratory component, as well as the mentoring and guidance of our science faculty that enables students to perform well in employment or graduate school. Students also benefit from an exposure to the full range of disciplines in our liberal arts and sciences core curriculum.

Our science faculty also have a strong record of research, much of which has qualified to receive grants from our national research agency, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), from Redeemer or from other sources. Often senior sciences students receive the opportunity to work as research assistants in this exciting process of discovery.

As a Christian undergraduate university we are determined to offer a well-rounded set of majors and to give an appropriate place on our campus to God's gifts of scientific inquiry. Redeemer University College provides a rich environment for students interested in pursuing the sciences.

We are thankful to be able to celebrate the sciences in our academic program. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless their efforts toward continued growth and development in the service of Jesus Christ, both at Redeemer and in the Christian community at large. ■



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Correction: In the last issue of *Images*, Joel Rusthoven '07 was not given credit for the photos of alumni that he took as part of the "Community Engaged" insert. We thank Joel for his fine work on those photos and apologize for the oversight.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Vol 23 No 2



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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Redeemer University College is a Christian liberal arts and science university, offering courses and programs leading to a bachelor's degree. Redeemer serves over 800 students on its 86-acre campus on the outskirts of Hamilton.

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Redeemer receives top marks – Again

Redeemer University College has once again been ranked as one of the top undergraduate universities in Canada in terms of student satisfaction. According to data released in the

February 16 issue of *Maclean's* magazine, 91% of Redeemer students were satisfied or highly satisfied with the overall quality of education that they have received. This is the highest ranking of the 31 Canadian universities that took part in a survey on student satisfaction conducted by the Canadian University Survey Consortium, or CUSC.

Redeemer was ranked near the top of each category measured, and was first in many key areas such as:

- » Quality of teaching received (96% of students satisfied)
- » Class size (99%)
- » Accessibility of faculty outside of class (97%)
- » How faculty treat students (98%)

The *Maclean's* article – “Students grade their universities” – can be found at macleans.ca/campus. A complete listing of all the tables can be found at redeemer.ca/rankings. This is the second time this academic year Redeemer students have ranked their level of satisfaction with their university experience. Redeemer also received high marks in the October 2008 University Report Card, published by the *Globe and Mail*; that report can be found at www.globecampus.ca. ■

MACLEANS.CA

Continuing Education at Redeemer

Even as the current academic year winds down for undergraduates, Redeemer's Continuing Education program is beginning to ramp up for the spring and summer sessions. This year, Redeemer will be offering Additional Qualifications (AQ) courses in Teaching English as a Second Language, Reading and Special Education. New this year is Special Education – Communication – Autism, the only AQ course in Ontario focusing on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Redeemer will be working with a number of partners in Christian education to present the Summer Institute for Teachers. These courses, which cover everything from Biblical History to Reading Problems, are normally offered during the first three weeks of July.

The Continuing Education program also offers courses such as the History of Film, Reformation Theology and Resort Management, and a one day mini-conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders on April 25.

For more information, including Registration, visit redeemer.ca/ConEd. ■

Tie-ing one on for Theo

Following the playful suggestion of Prof Ray Louter, Redeemer began a new tradition in memory of Theo Plantinga, one of our original faculty members, who passed away last summer. On “Theo Tie Day,” the Redeemer community remembered Dr. Plantinga's affinity for distinctive ties. Celebrated on the class day nearest to Robbie Burns Day (January 25), faculty, staff and students wore their most distinctive, colourful or outlandish tie or scarf.

Included in the day was a brief assembly in the Commons to remember Dr Plantinga and to award a small prize to the best ties/scarves.



Kim Nash, Registrar's Office Receptionist, shows off her Marilyn Monroe tie on Theo Tie Day. The former professor of philosophy, who also owned a (slightly more risqué) tie that featured Ms Monroe, would be pleased.

A Queen's Park quotation

Redeemer was officially congratulated in the Ontario Legislature on December 10, 2008. Sophia Aggelonitis, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Hamilton Mountain read a Member's Statement praising Redeemer for the excellent student ratings it received in 2008 as part of the *Globe and Mail's* University Report Card.

Ms Aggelonitis noted that the results of

"The results... clearly show that Redeemer's overall results are among the best in the country which is a real credit to the faculty, students, administration and supporters of this undergraduate university."

the student surveys "clearly show that Redeemer's overall results are among the best in the country which is a real credit to the faculty, students, administration and supporters of this undergraduate university."

To access the full text, visit www.ontla.on.ca, click Debates and Proceedings, then click Hansard and go to December 10, 2008; Redeemer is the seventh Member Statement listed.

Redeemer has developed relationships with leaders of all levels of government and continues to work on a wide variety of issues that are of mutual concern and interest. Although much of this work goes on behind the scenes, we are grateful for moments like these when we are recognized publicly for the contributions that Redeemer makes to the public good. ■



Honouring decades of service

For the past 32 years, Mr. Bert Bakker has served with distinction as legal counsel first for the Ontario Christian College Association, then for Redeemer University College and later for the Redeemer Foundation.

During this time he has represented Redeemer in many different ways. He was instrumental in drafting the original provincial charter, passed in 1980, that legally created Redeemer College. Since then, he has helped navigate four charter amendments through the Legislature, and assisted Redeemer with many business matters and other legal issues.

This past fall Mr. Bakker indicated that he would like to step down from his position. At the Foundation's Annual Meeting in December, Mr. Bakker was thanked for his decades of faithful service to Redeemer. He will continue to assist the Foundation as it winds down its operations.

After interviewing a number of very good candidates, Redeemer selected Mr. David van der Woerd of the Hamilton firm of Ross & McBride to serve as our legal counsel, effective January 1, 2009. Mr. van der Woerd is a longtime supporter of Redeemer. He has taught business law for our Business Department and also served on Redeemer's Business Advisory Council. We are looking forward to benefiting from his legal expertise as well as that of his firm. ■

An inclusive process for strategic visioning

In light of Dr. Cooper's pending retirement (see accompanying article), the Board of Governors has embarked on developing a new 10-year Strategic Plan.

Commissioned by the Board of Governors, this plan will assist the Senior Management team, faculty and staff by providing strategic direction and a clearly articulated consensus on big questions of focus and vision. This plan will be the catalyst for aligning operational plans and communicating to all stakeholders where Redeemer is headed. Paramount in this process is finding the answer to this question: How do we define, retain and express our identity as a Christian institution of higher learning.

The Board has approved a planning process that will take place throughout 2009. They have asked that the process be highly inclusive: listening to all parts of the community by including discussion sessions and or interviews with major stakeholder groups. It is expected that with this input the Board will be better positioned to make strategic choices, and that everyone will feel greater ownership to the successful implementation of the final plan.

You too are invited to participate in this initiative. If you would like to contribute, contact Mrs. Magda Beukes (mbeukes@redeemer.ca; 905.648.2139 x4208). You will be sent a survey that asks for your thoughts on five questions. The information you share will be compiled and summarized by a consultant retained by Redeemer to facilitate the process. However, you will not be quoted directly and nothing will be attributed to you.

Thank you for helping sharpen Redeemer's vision. ■

Presidential Search Committee Appointed

The Board of Governors of Redeemer University College has appointed an eight-member Search Committee to find a successor for President Justin Cooper, whose term expires on June 30, 2009.

Ray Pennings, Chair of the Board, indicated that the Board sought to establish a committee small enough to carry out its task efficiently, yet broad enough to ensure that community concerns would be taken into account in the search process.

"The members of this committee have been selected with the expectation that there will be confidence in its integrity, in the discreetness of its members, in its vision, in its knowledge of the long-range aspects of Christian education and the place of Redeemer University College in its support community, in its corporate experience and judgment, in its corporate ability to interview intelligently and relevantly, and in the proven, positive, constructive, and intelligent devotion of its members to Christian education," said Pennings.

The committee will be convened by former board chair Martin Mudde, and has been given a mandate to "find candidates who match as closely as possible the profile of the Presidential Skill Requirements as approved by the Board" and to present such candidates to the Board "in a prudent and timely manner."

The Presidential Search Committee

MARTIN MUDDÉ is a former Redeemer Board Chair whose employment experience includes senior positions in government and in various corporations in the electronics sector.

DR. DEBORAH BOWEN is presently Chair of the Department of English at Redeemer. She taught previously at University of Ottawa and Université de Montréal. She holds degrees from Ottawa, Cambridge and Oxford.

JOHN BUMA is the Chief Executive Officer of the Albright Centre in Beamsville. A former member of the Board of Governors Executive Committee, John received a Masters of Arts in Sociology from the University of Western Ontario.

KIM EVANS works as the Vice-President of Advancement for Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. A lawyer, Kim's focus at IVCF has been in the shaping of the newly re-named Advancement Team, focusing on communications, public relations, and fundraising.

CHARLIE FLUIT serves as the CFO and Vice President of World Vision Canada. A CA, he has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McMaster University and is presently serving his third term on the Board of Governors.

DR. AARON SCHAT '95 is an Assistant Professor of Organizational Behaviour and Human Resource Management at McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business, and has taught courses and consulted on various topics in Human Resource Management, including organizational selection and hiring practices.

DR. HENRY J. STRONKS is the President of the Bruker Canada group of companies, based in Milton, Ontario, a leading provider of high-performance scientific instruments and solutions. Henry did his graduate work at the Guelph Waterloo Centre for Graduate Work in Chemistry, and received his Ph.D. in chemistry (cum laude) in 1984.

DR. VINCE VAN DIJK is a Professor Emeritus of Physics and Mathematics at Redeemer University College and an Adjunct Professor of Physics at McMaster University. One of Redeemer's original faculty members, Dr. vanDijk served as the Academic Dean (1983-85) and as Vice-President Academic (1994-95, 2000-02).

More information on the Presidential Search process can be found at redeemer.ca/presidentsearch.

A Silver Graduation

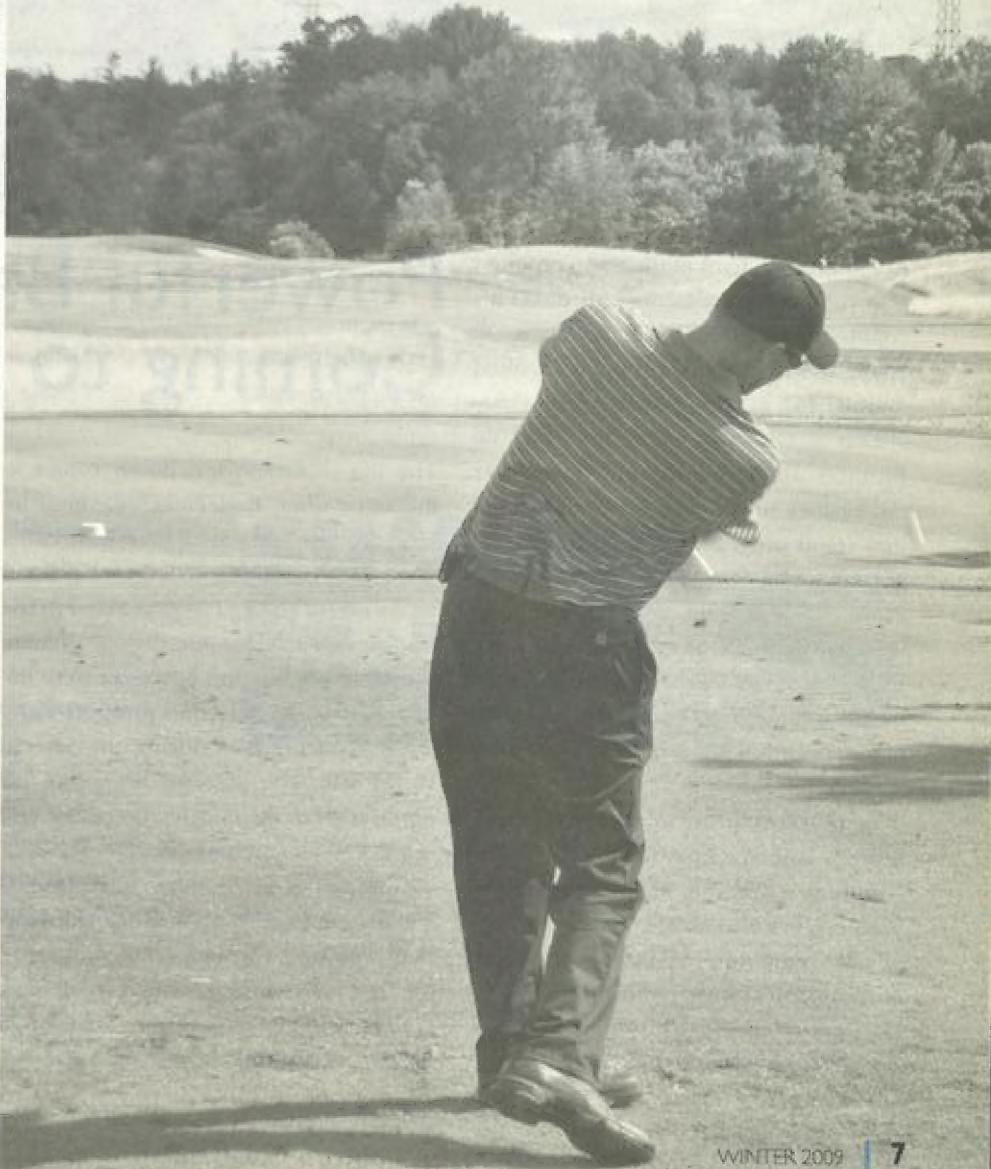
Celebrate the Class of 2009 at Redeemer's 25th Commencement ceremony on May 23 at 2:00 pm. The featured speaker will be Rev. Mark Gornik, author of *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*. A very limited number of tickets are available. Please contact the Registrar's Office for more information: 905.648.2139 ext. 4449; reg@redeemer.ca

Tee-ing it up for students

Registration for the Third Annual Redeemer Golf Tournament is now open! On July 22, join us at the beautiful Copetown Woods Golf Club for a day of fun and fellowship in support of Christian higher education.

The day includes lunch, 18 holes of golf on Copetown's links-style course, reception and dinner. There will be prizes, contests and lots of fun.

To register, contact Annetta Skelly (askelly@redeemer.ca; 905.648.2139 x4246), or visit redeemer.ca/golf. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.



Another ICAO Approval

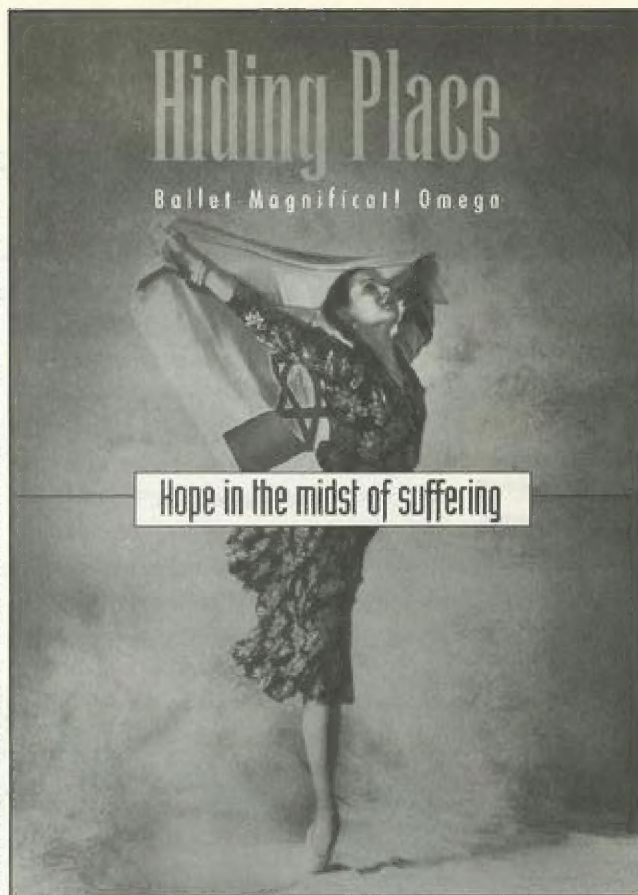


With the approval of four new courses this past fall, Redeemer's accounting program now satisfies the requirements for the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation as

prescribed by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (ICAO). In February, the ICAO accredited Redeemer's Accounting Co-Op Program. This means that Accounting students in the co-op program who complete placements with ICAO accredited training offices can now have all 16 months of their co-op work recognised towards their CA designation.

This is certainly an honour for the Business Department; only ten other universities in Ontario have an accredited co-op program. In announcing the accreditation, Dr. Jacob Ellens, Vice President Academic, thanked Dr. John Boersema for his pioneering work, and Professor Susan Van Weelden "whose tenacity and exacting standards in making our application have been blessed with success."

Employers who are interested in hiring a co-op student, whether that be in accounting, marketing or another area of business, are also able to take advantage of tax credits offered by the provincial government. Please contact Mrs. Nancy Hartholt, Redeemer's Co-Op Program Coordinator for more information. ■



Powerful Ballet Coming to Redeemer

The life of Corrie ten Boom comes to the stage when Redeemer welcomes internationally acclaimed American ballet company, Ballet Magnificat! for a presentation of *The Hiding Place*, on May 1 in the Auditorium. A humble devout woman, Corrie ten Boom and her sister were imprisoned in a Nazi concentration camp for harbouring Jews during the Second World War. Her story of hope and triumph is set in the midst of desperate and unimaginable circumstances.

Founded in 1986, Ballet Magnificat! is a Christian professional dance company that ministers through powerful performances and life-impacting experiences. Headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, Ballet Magnificat!'s two professional

companies perform more than 200 times annually throughout the world. After a number of shows in Ontario, Omega – the company performing *The Hiding Place* – will travel to Europe for a series of concerts.

This promises to be an unforgettable performance, suitable for the whole family. Tickets for this show are available at TicketWindow.ca or by calling Redeemer's Box Office at 905.648.2138 x 4214. Proceeds from the concert will support Redeemer's Supporting Our Students Campaign.

More information on the company, including a brief preview of the performance, are available through its website: balletmagnificat.com. ■



Royals Update

It's been a busy, exciting and award-winning winter for Redeemer's varsity teams and athletes. Here are just a few highlights from the winter season. For more information on all varsity teams, visit www.redeemer.ca/athletics

Men's and Women's Volleyball

Both Volleyball programs finished off their 2008-2009 seasons in February. The women's volleyball team finished tied for 7th in the West, missing out on the playoffs by just 4 points. On the men's side, the Royals continued their dominant play from the fall and put up an impressive 12-4 record tying them for 1st place in the West at season's end. Unfortunately, the tiebreaker put them in 3rd place and they went on to lose their playoff crossover match. Ryan Talsma and Brad Douwes were both named as 1st Team All-Stars. For the Women, Chantel Schutten was named a 2nd Team All-Star.

Men's and Women's Basketball

The Men's and Women's Basketball seasons have also come to a close. The women's team finished 8th in the West and the Men's team 9th. Jordan DeWeger, Ian Klingenberg, Nathan Ayer, and Hannah Roukema represented Redeemer at the OCAA All-Star game on March 28.

Men's and Women's Indoor Soccer

The Women's Indoor season has come to a close with the women finishing in 3rd place at the Regional Championships, missing out on Provincial Championships by one spot. The Men finished second in their Regional Championships and will look to defend their gold medal title later this spring at the Provincial Championships.



CAMPUS NEWS

CCAA All-Canadian

After another impressive and dominating season, Men's Volleyball player Ryan Talsma has again been named a CCAA All Canadian. This is Ryan's second consecutive year winning the award, which is given to the top 10 college volleyball players in the country.

SUMMER ROYALS SPORTS CAMP 2009

The Redeemer Athletic Department is proud to once again be running the Summer Rays Multisport Summer Camps as well as the Elite Level Power Volleyball Camp. Summer Basketball Camps, a new addition to the Redeemer summer lineup, will be offered the first week of July. Check out www.redeemer.ca/athletics/sportscamps for information, camp dates and registration forms for all the camps ■

First-year student
Angeline Goredema and
second-year student
Elizabeth Bryan do lab
work as part of
their introductory
biology class

The Practical and the Perspective

The Science Program at Redeemer prepares students for graduate school, employment and a deep understanding of the role of science in society.

In mid-March, Dr. Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology, and a devout Christian, found himself in the centre of a media maelstrom when in an interview with the *Globe and Mail* he declined to say whether or not he believed in evolution: "I'm not going to answer that question. I am a Christian, and I don't think anybody asking a question about my religion is appropriate." Even after he clarified his remarks the next day, pundits and academics pilloried him for his stance, some even questioning if his stance should disqualify him from serving in the science portfolio.

Since Galileo, faith and science have had a rocky relationship. The situation with Minister Goodyear demonstrates just how deep and wide the divide between them has grown in an increasing secular society that sees belief as either irrelevant to, or at odds with, scientific inquiry.

Understanding the relationship of science and faith is part of the mission of the Redeemer's natural sciences, mathematics and computer science departments. And in today's world, where issues around science and technology affect students daily, that means that the sciences need to be an integral part of Redeemer's curriculum.



Redeemer student researchers whose work last summer was funded through the through NSERC's Undergraduate Student research Awards Program

From Core to Concentrations

"Our goal at Redeemer is to provide high-calibre liberal arts and sciences education," notes Dr. Doug Needham, Dean of Sciences and Social Sciences. "That means providing all students a basic understanding of scientific inquiry and of the role of science in society." To fulfill that mandate, all students, no matter their major, are required to take one or two courses in the sciences. Some of these courses, geared to non-science majors, explore a variety of topics including their application to current issues.

Those majoring in one of the sciences will find an academic program that is rigorous and challenging. Redeemer offers concentrations and majors in a number of different disciplines, and the number of programs in the sciences has increased over the years (see sidebar). While there is still room for growth in the Bachelor of Science degree program, Dr. Kevin Vander Meulen, Associate Professor of Mathematics notes that "There is this perception out there that Redeemer does not have a quality program in the sciences. But between the course offerings, facilities, faculty and opportunities for research, our students receive an excellent education, one that prepares them for the workforce or graduate studies."

The Advantages of Accessibility

Redeemer's "Science Wing" – the laboratories, prep rooms and specialized computer labs where many of the natural science courses are taught – is tucked away on the second floor, about as close to out of the way as you can get in the Academic Building. Over the years, through internal budgets, donations, recycling efforts and research grants, Redeemer has been able to furnish the labs with all of the equipment that undergraduates need. "We really do have a remarkable range of top-notch equipment," notes Dr. Gary Chiang, Professor of Biology, "all the tools that our students will need, even for advanced, senior-level courses." He also points out that Redeemer's labs are used almost exclusively for teaching; they are not tied up by faculty and graduate-level students doing research.

Dr. Chiang can remember the early days of Redeemer, a time when the labs were not quite so complete. He chuckles as he points out that Redeemer is now home to Hamilton's only electrophysiology set-up equipped for measuring minute electrical signals from insects' nerves. "I now have researchers from McMaster University coming to use Redeemer labs because we have the equipment they need."

The word accessible could also be used to describe Redeemer's science faculty. Although they are all involved in research in their respective disciplines (see accompanying article), faculty are first and foremost teachers, committed to preparing students for a career in the sciences. Because faculty don't rely on teacher assistants (TAs) to run tutorials or labs, they often develop relationships that extend beyond the classroom.

Students also have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty on a number of different research projects, sometimes working closely enough to co-author journal articles or co-present papers at academic conferences. And for the past ten years, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), through the Undergraduate Student Research Awards Program (USRA), has funded research which is

Continued on page 12

The Role of Research

As it is in other departments, research plays an important role in the sciences. Funded by grants given by Redeemer, NSERC, foundations and other agencies, faculty – increasingly aided by their students – spend much of their summers conducting experiments or doing comparative research on a range of topics. Redeemer's faculty often work with colleagues at other institutions; in fact, many have cross-appointments at other universities.

A number of Redeemer faculty and graduates regularly receive funding from NSERC, a federal program that supports scientific research and innovation through funding universities, governments, and the private sector.

Last summer, NSERC grants allowed 10 students to work with faculty members on projects ranging from the presence of trace metals in plants to robotic vision to the evolution of time in quantum systems. Both faculty and students benefit from this arrangement: faculty have access to talented students who provide assistance, sometimes from year to year. Students, while getting paid, receive hands-on experience in scientific research, giving them the chance to test the waters. Having that level of experience is also invaluable when applying for graduate schools.

The students themselves are ecstatic about the opportunity to conduct research. Amy Koopmans, who conducted an aquatic plant growth experiment, comments, "To know that I'm a contributing member [to research] is amazing." Julie Kikkert, who was heavily involved with Dr. Berkelaar's research notes, "It's awesome to be able to realize our potential and grow the gifts that God has given to us."

Community Service

Beyond teaching and research, faculty are involved with a number of programs that benefit a much broader community. Many lead workshops and seminars in churches

and for community organizations, and there are a number of programs geared to children:

>> Throughout the school year, hundreds of elementary and secondary school students come to Redeemer to take part in a Science Education program in which they are encouraged, through hands on activities, to explore the wonders of God's creation. Led by Jennifer Chiang, students examine a variety of issues and topics in an interactive environment.

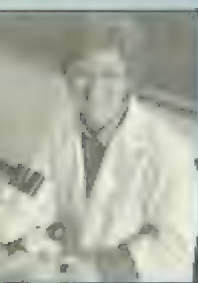
>> Dr. Henry Brouwer, Professor of Chemistry (Emeritus), used his sabbatical in 2005 to develop *Science Made*

Easy, a series of DVDs, to help

elementary school teachers demonstrate a number of scientific principles and concepts.

>> In April, the Sciences Division will welcome 55 Christian elementary schools from across Ontario for the eighth biennial Christian Schools Science Fair. More than 175 projects, all designed and created by students in grades 7 & 8 will be included in this year's Fair, in disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics and computer science.

>> In previous summers, Redeemer has offered week-long camps designed to tweak the interest of budding young scientists. Participants are introduced to Redeemer's labs, but they also spend time outside, exploring the gardens and wetlands of the campus. The June issue of *Images* will have details of any possible Summer '09 program opportunities.



Many of these outreach programs are made possible by Jennifer Chiang, Lecturer in Biology. Prof. Chiang is also the driving force for the care and upkeep of the Whaley Teaching Garden, which gives students the opportunity for field work in ecology and botany courses.



Top: Amy Wigboldus, a third-year biology major prepares for an experiment as part of her Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology course

Left: Pictured here with Dr. Gary Chiang, Redeemer alumnus Matt Klingenberg '06 presents a copy of his recently completed (August, 2008) masters thesis entitled: Spatiotemporal associations between mountain pine beetle and warren root collar weevil in adjacent forests. Matt completed his thesis at the University of Northern British Columbia under the supervision of another Redeemer alumnus, Dr. Brian Aukema, '96.

conducted primarily in the summer by student workers under the leadership of faculty. Not only are the students paid, but they also gain invaluable research experience.

Putting Science in its (Proper) Place

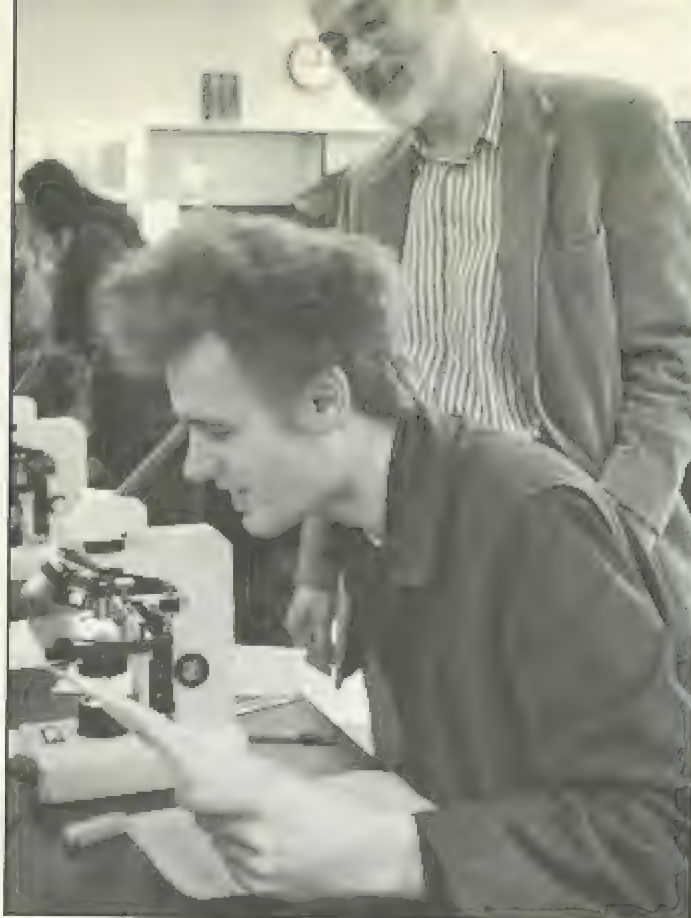
Redeemer students have an enviable record of success in being accepted into graduate school and in securing rewarding and fulfilling jobs in science-related fields. But that end is not the ultimate purpose of studying the sciences at Redeemer. "As a Christian university we not only introduce student to the practice of math, natural sciences and computer science in courses, but also to ways of looking at science as a part of culture, and specifically at Christian ways of looking at the sciences, math and computer science," writes Dr. Jitse Van der Meer, Professor of Biology and editor of a recently-released 2-volume series that examines science and hermeneutics (see p. 21). Through specific courses, such as Philosophy of Science, but also throughout the curriculum, students investigate how scientific thought is and has been shaped by the philosophical, religious and political context of its time. These courses "provide students with tools to use when they encounter science in various ways as well when they become scientists," notes Dr. van der Meer. "We want to equip students with ways of assessing the value of scientific knowledge as Christians."

Dr. Derek Schuurman, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, considers discussions about faith and technology part of his calling as a researcher and teacher. "Some people idolize technology, while others fear it as something that will someday turn on us. I think that as Christians we are called to engage the world, and so I try to get students to think about how their faith should inform technology."

As Minister Goodyear is painfully aware, trying to make sense of the relationship

Continued on next page

Prof. van der Meer checks in on Andrew Vlasblom, a fourth-year student taking an introductory biology course. Although as an English major, "it's been a challenge at times," Vlasblom says that the course content "contains the kind of information every student should know. I'm amazed at what I've learned



between science and one's faith is not something that can be done easily in a sound-bite world. These are difficult issues, even for those who do have a deep faith. "Christians – here at Redeemer and elsewhere – certainly don't have all the answers," notes Dr. Vander Meulen. "But we do have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to explore God's vast and complex creation, and to try to understand our place in it." ■

Program Overview

Redeemer's Bachelor of Science program offers majors in:

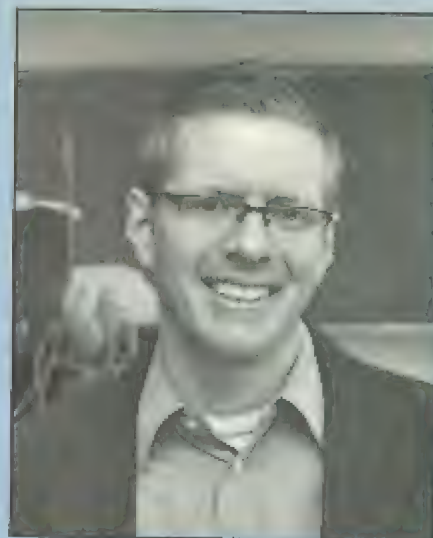
- Biology*
- Computer Science
- Computer Science & Mathematics
- Computer Science & Physics
- Environmental Studies
- Horticulture* (In cooperation with Ridgetown College or the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture)
- Kinesiology*
- Mathematics
- Mathematics & Physics

*also available as an Honours Major

Minor concentrations are also available in each discipline above, as well as in Chemistry and in Physics.

Redeemer has an articulation agreement with the Engineering Department at McMaster University to officially recognize various Redeemer courses as equivalent to a variety of first year engineering courses and electives at McMaster. This option will be of interest to prospective students interested in getting a first year of solid Christian academic grounding before pursuing further studies in Engineering.

Students can also take advantage of a number of off-campus programs, such as the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies, which has campuses in the Great Lakes Forest of northern Michigan, Puget Sound in the Pacific Northwest, in South Florida and in Belize, as part of the Creation Care Study program.



Another Brouwer for Chemistry Department

Dr. Darren Brouwer '97 began his appointment as Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Redeemer this January, picking up the lab coat of his father, Dr. Henry Brouwer, who retired from full-time teaching last June.

After his studies at Redeemer, Brouwer graduated from the University of Guelph with an Honours degree in Chemistry before earning his Ph. D. from the University of British Columbia. He also spent two years on a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Southampton in England.

His academic research involves very small things, like trying to figure out the structures of materials at the atomic and molecular level. But he also has interests in very deep things like philosophy and theology. In fact, he is halfway towards a Diploma in Christian Studies from Regent College, a Christian graduate school in Vancouver.

When not teaching or doing research – he has authored 30 peer-reviewed publications – Brouwer enjoys being out in God's creation – hiking, cycling, canoeing and camping. He and his son live in an intentional community with another family in downtown Hamilton, exploring ways to enrich each other's lives by developing a common life together.

Spiritual Formation for the Academic Community

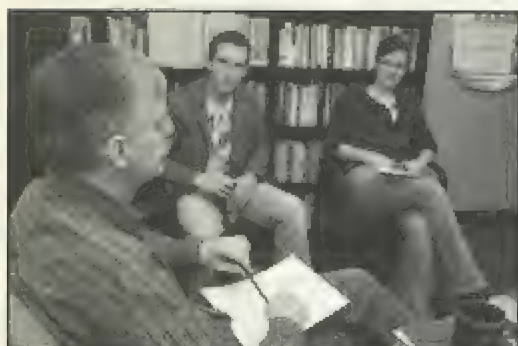
CHAPLAIN SYD HIELEMA MINISTERS TO STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY

As students gather to plan for chapel services, as staff and faculty meet to pray, as a community rejoices and wrestles with what it means to love and know God, we find Syd Hielema, the Campus Chaplain, humbly and passionately guiding the way.

Planning chapel services and offering counseling services are only part of Hielema's responsibilities as Redeemer's first full-time chaplain. He also teaches one course per term, aids in Student Life programming, prepares a weekly devotional and hosts prayer sessions dedicated to discerning God's voice through Redeemer's transition in leadership.

But these areas of work often overlap and connect in exciting ways. "The Holy Spirit has a wonderfully random way of making connections, and thereby demonstrating God's sovereign way of working through our humble efforts," says Hielema. "A student taking my course in the Pauline epistles may decide to lead a Bible study on Ephesians. As the group studies Ephesians, one student realizes that she is struggling deeply with a particular issue mentioned by Paul, and she comes to discuss this issue with me. As we discuss it, I realize that her issue is one that is shared by many students, so we plan a chapel on that theme."

Since he began his work close to three years ago, Hielema, through these connections with various parts of the community gradually has become an organic part of the Redeemer body. Along the way, he has developed a vision for Redeemer "as a community that places its academic calling within the broader call to spiritual formation." Participating in the healing and spiritual formation of people's lives has been a highlight his ministry, but it also extends



to the institution as a whole. One example is the intentional and integral role that contemplative prayer is playing in the Strategic Planning process (see sidebar).

Another area of his work that Hielema finds exciting is connecting insights from Scripture with the mission of God's people in today's world. "The combination of exploring a collection of writings that continues to breathe with fresh life and following the Spirit's leading in the world today creates a chemical reaction of sorts whose power moves me deeply," he says.

This can be seen in a series of weekly devotions that Hielema has developed for faculty, staff and students. Based on the Student Life theme for the 08/09 academic year, "God's Power Made Perfect in Weakness," Hielema draws on Scripture to demonstrate the "wonderful paradox of God's power." Universities have traditionally become centres of power because in our world, knowledge enhances status. "The kingdom of God is also about power, but it's a very different kind of power: the power of the cross, God's power made perfect in weakness," says Hielema. The theme is both a celebration of kingdom power and a rejection of the 'normal' understanding of a university as a power centre.

"The community is not made up of more and less powerful

people, but is an organic body in which every member is called to discipleship," says Hielema. We are called to be formed more and more into the image of Christ, which "involves surrendering the power we have in our own strength and finding our power together in Jesus."

There's a personal lesson in this for Hielema as well. There is a great temptation in chaplaincy ministry to lean on one's own strength, but he has found that God works best when we depend on him and allow his strength to work through us. Learning to trust the Lord's good timing through the process of ministry has been an encouraging aspect of his journey.

Combining the insights of Reformed theology with the ideals of spiritual formation has become an interesting task. In a community with faculty, staff, and students from dozens of different Christian traditions and preferences, Hielema is learning which issues are foundational to the growth of the community, and which can be put aside. However, his dedicated and enthusiastic presence – whether that be in a quiet room counseling a student, in the auditorium leading a chapel service, or sharing a lecture at the front of a classroom – will remain a constant catalyst for the spiritual formation of the entire Redeemer community. ■

Listening for God's Guidance

"How do we as an institutional community follow the Lord's leading through a year of very significant transition?" As Redeemer searches for a new President and begins work on a new strategic plan (see p. 7), the Board is looking to make prayerful discernment an integral part of the process.

Chaplain Hielema, with the support and encouragement of the Board and Jill Malleck, the consultant who is guiding the strategic planning process, has developed a

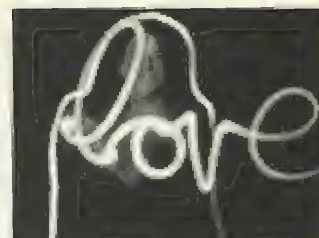
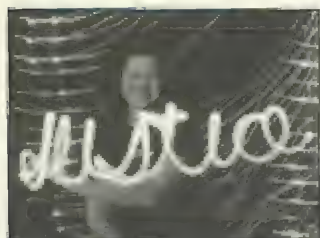
four-phase "discernment plan" to help the Redeemer community seek God's leading through this period.

The initial part of the discernment process is being conducted through communal prayer meetings held February through April. Each week, faculty, staff and students gather to prayerfully reflect on scripture and God's vision for Redeemer. Throughout the spring and summer, faculty-staff soup lunches, summer chapel services and an institution-wide

prayer service continue the process.

Hielema will serve as a reporting link between the discernment that takes place in the various prayer gatherings and the strategic planning process. Regular updates will be forwarded to Jill Malleck, President's Council and the Board of Governors.

"Participating in this process continues to move me deeply," says Hielema. "I feel as if I have a privileged, front-row seat in observing God's leading in this place."



The Shining Light of Social Justice



Chris Heuertz is the International Executive Director of Word Made Flesh, an international organization dedicated to bringing the love of Christ to the poorest of the poor, and to reconcile the church to the poor.

"God created all of us beautiful and equal, and sin has ruined that in this world, but there is no reason that people should be living in poverty, slavery or conditions that some of us can never imagine," says Natasha Motley, a third-year student from Brampton, ON who serves on Redeemer's Social Justice committee.

That cry for a better world was the impetus behind the second annual Social Justice Conference that Redeemer hosted in January. The day-long event gathered those who are dedicated to engaging their world and community in a search for jus-

tice. Through workshops, speakers, organization booths, worship and discussion, participants envisioned how a movement towards social justice could be achieved together.

Plenary speaker Chris Heuertz of Word Made Flesh, opened the day by addressing issues of poverty he has learned from his experiences working with the world's poor. Having traveled through nearly seventy countries, Heuertz has worked with recovering drug addicts, street-children, refugees, sex-trafficked women and girls and unreached peoples.

Workshops were led by representatives from a number of organizations such as the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, International Teams, Inter-

national Justice Mission, Be the Voice, and Revolution Ministries. Participants were able to hear and discuss modern social justice issues and the ways in which individuals and communities can become involved in the solution. Topics including sex-trafficking, human slavery, the AIDS crisis, and materialism were addressed. Many students also participated in the CRCWC campaign, *I Embrace AIDS*, which allows participants to send messages to those suffering with AIDS by writing with light in a photograph (see above).

As part of the conference, Sharon Heuving, a fourth-year student, led a workshop on human slavery. Heuving is the founder of *Be the Voice*, a campaign dedicated to raising awareness about global slavery. She hopes to inspire individuals to become modern-day abolitionists by becoming personally involved with the movement through relatively simple actions such as demanding fair trade products and financially supporting sex-trade exit programs.

Laura Konyndyk, a third-year student, said the conference encouraged her to become more aware of the suffering that is happening around her: "While it is easy to feel overwhelmed, helpless and guilty when we are presented with such difficult material, we must work hard to take what we've learned and apply it to our daily lives." Along with Laura, many conference participants left with a deepened understanding of modern social justice issues, and a hope for becoming actively involved the solutions. ■

Recycled, Refurbished and Reused

COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS AND ALUMNI SHIP COMPUTERS TO AFRICA

Early one Saturday morning in November, a group of students, alumni, and volunteers gathered to sort through, refurbish, and ship dozens of old computers to Sierra Leone, the West African nation that has the dubious distinction of being the poorest in the world.

The computers were donated through the Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada (CVMC), an organization dedicated to improving the care of livestock and other animals in vulnerable areas of the world. The donated computers will be given to those in most need of them, such as farmers or those who train them, those who track farming operations or teachers aiming to enhance the education at their schools. In December, the computers were shipped in a 40-foot container along with poultry equipment, school books, medical supplies, agricultural equipment, sewing machines and more.

Redeemer students have been active in Sierra Leone for several years. A number of education students have had placements in the impoverished country through

internships funded by CIDA, the Canada International Development Agency. This project was an initiative of Computer Science students and alumni who worked with a team of CVMC volunteers to prepare the computers.

After refurbishing the machines, the students installed open source software. Since it is nearly impossible to receive anti-virus updates in Sierra Leone, computers can quickly become unusable because of viruses. Since open source operating systems and programs are less likely to be targeted, their installation is a very important part of the donation process.

The team hopes to repeat the experience again in the future. "We are definitely looking at doing it again and hope we can make it a yearly thing," says computer science student, Timothy Ubbens. He does hope however that institutional donors will be able to provide a larger number of identical computers. "It would take half the time to build machines if they were identical," says Ubbens. ■



One man's junk... some of the computer parts that were rebuilt for use in Sierra Leone. Bottom: Tim Ubbens and Kevin Langedoen load software on the refurbished machines.



ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK

The Green Team, a student club dedicated to spreading Christian environmental responsibility, especially on campus, helped put together an entire week of events to raise appreciation and respect for God's creation. Environmental Week began with a chapel service that featured Walter Cooke, director of the Aboriginal Health Centre in Hamilton. A native-Canadian Christian, Mr. Cooke spoke about walking with God in His creation.

Throughout the week, the Team organized a series of events, including hikes, contests and a neighbourhood clean-up. In the Commons were a number of displays by external environmental organizations as well as reminders of what students can do on campus to promote a sustainable lifestyle.



Raising Literacy through Stories

From the adventures of a monkey named 'Bananas,' to the tale of a cow-led farm rebellion, the stories of children at Memorial School continue to be imagined, written and performed through the Story Telling Project.

Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts Sharon Klassen knows that literacy leads to justice, which is why she partnered with a local elementary school to start the Story Telling Project three years ago. Almost every semester since, fifteen Redeemer students have ventured to the East Hamilton neighbourhood of Ottawa and Main to inspire, encourage and mentor young students on their road to literacy by helping them bring their stories to life.

Initially starting at Queen Mary School, the program has relocated to Memorial School to continue its transformative work. With students from a diverse array of socioeconomic backgrounds, Memorial has struggled to achieve adequate literacy test scores and is very supportive of the project.

"The beauty of the Story Telling Project is that it addresses reading, writing and communication skills in a manner that is fun and relevant to the students," says Memorial School Principal John Bradley. "Without even realizing they are doing so, our students practice their skills in a non-threatening, social and enjoyable environment."

For Redeemer students, it is a chance to develop classroom and tutoring skills that often affirm or alter their career goals.

To cover the costs of expenses such as notebooks, pens, and mileage, the project has been funded by private donors as well as grants from Redeemer and the Dofasco Foundation. Students at both Redeemer and Memorial are looking forward to continuing the program next fall ■

Accomplishments and Updates

Congratulations to the many faculty who recently have received awards and recognition for their academic work and other endeavours.”

At its most recent meeting, Redeemer's Board of Governors:

- >> reappointed and granted tenure to **Dr. Benne Faber** as Assistant Professor of English;
- >> granted tenure to **Dr. Charles Hackney** and promoted him to the rank of Associate Professor of Psychology;
- >> reappointed **Dr. Jane Sinden** as Assistant Professor of Physical Education; and
- >> reappointed **Professor Deani Van Pelt** as Assistant Professor of Education

Dr. Kevin Flatt successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in history at McMaster University. Dr. Flatt's dissertation, *The Survival and Decline of Evangelicalism in the United Church of Canada, 1930-1970*, investigates rise of liberalism of the United Church. As added reason for congratulations, his committee accepted his thesis without requiring any revisions.

Dr. Mark Bowald has been awarded the Colin Gunton Prize for an essay entitled “The Character of Theological Interpretation of Scripture.” The Gunton Prize is co-sponsored by the Society for the Study of Theology (SST) – the main association of theologians in the UK and of English-speaking theologians in Western Europe – and by the *International Journal of Systematic Theology* (IJST). This journal will publish all the shortlisted articles in the competition, with Mark's essay as its lead article.

Professor Deani Van Pelt, with five colleagues from the UK and the USA, has been awarded a twelve-month \$50,000 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) award to digitize the Charlotte Mason archives. Charlotte Mason was a nineteenth-century educator and the award is to encourage international collaboration in the research of Mason's work.

Dr. Deborah Bowen has been granted a publishing subsidy by the Aid to Scholarly Publications Committee of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, towards the publication of her monograph *Stories of the Middle Space*:

Postmodern Realisms face to Face with the World. A contract with McGill-Queen's University Press has now been granted.

Dr. James Payton, Jr. has been awarded a lectureship by the Association for Reformed Institutions of Higher Education (ARIHE) on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. Dr. Payton will be invited to give any of a group of four addresses that he has prepared on the work and historical significance of John Calvin to members of the nine universities and colleges that are part of ARIHE. Dr. Payton will present three of his talks to Redeemer University College in the winter of 2010 as part of our regular “The World and Our Calling Lectures.”



Dr. Diane Dent, Lecturer in French, was nominated by the City of Hamilton to receive a Heritage Community Recognition Award for Lifetime Achievement as a volunteer for Heritage Preservation. Dr. Dent has been active in preserving neighbourhoods and communities across Hamilton for thirty years. This award was presented by Mayor Fred Eisenberger in front of Hamilton City Council. Lincoln Alexander, Chair of The Ontario Heritage Trust, an agency of the Government of Ontario, also sent a personal letter of congratulations.

Books by Redeemer faculty

Redeemer faculty continue to publish books in a number of disciplines and for a wide range of audiences. Here are a sample of some recent publications, all of which can be found at or ordered through the Redeemer Campus Bookstore.



Dr. Wayne Norman (l) and Dr. Jitse van der Meer stand with Father Edward Jackman, whose foundation supported the publication of the new series.

Nature and Scripture in the Abrahamic Religions

In the summer of 2005, Redeemer's Pascal Centre organized an international conference that explored how biblical hermeneutics, natural philosophy and science have influenced each other both directly and through theology and philosophy. From the proceedings of that conference comes *Nature and Scripture in the Abrahamic Religions*, co-edited by Professor Jitse M. van der Meer, Professor of Biology.

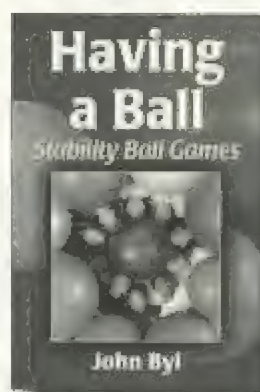
There are two volumes in this four-book collection. The first explores covers the period up to 1700, and the second covers the period from 1700 to the present. Both are published by Brill Academic Publishers. Dr. Wayne Norman, Director of the Pascal Centre, also played an important role in the production of this publication.

As this theme has had a low profile both in the history of science and the history of Scripture interpretation, the group focused on and how biblical interpretation and the interpretation of nature

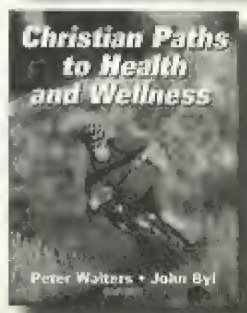
influenced each other and were affected by the larger cultural context. The study aims to raise this profile through a number of means, including providing historical content for renewed reflection on the role of hermeneutics in the development of theological doctrines regarding the natural sciences.

Dr. Jacob Ellens, Vice President Academic calls this work "a major scholarly contribution to the academic study of the relationship between nature and scripture." Portions of this research have become the basis for two courses at Redeemer including The History of Science and Evolutionary Biology, each of which now have a unit on biblical interpretation and science. Although this publication is largely for an academic audience, Dr. van der Meer hopes to publish a version that is more accessible to a larger audience.

Having a Ball: Stability Ball Games & Christian Paths to Health and Wellness,



Dr. John Byl, Professor of Physical Education, has published two books that reflect his interest in keeping active as part of a healthy lifestyle. *Having a Ball: Stability Ball Games*, features 73 games for children that use stability balls. Long a favourite piece of exercise equipment for adults, Byl shows how to get children bouncing, laughing, moving and having fun as they improve their fitness skills.

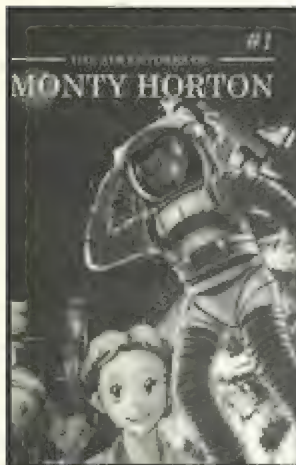


Dr. Byl is also co-editor of *Christian Paths to Health and Wellness*, a textbook for high school and university college classes that examines health and wellness

issues from a distinctly Christian perspective. Covering issues such as body image, cardiovascular fitness, emotional health and nutrition, the book is a great reference for Christians who want to improve their overall health. It includes contributions by Redeemer alumna Heather Strong '96, and faculty members Dianne Moroz and Doug Needham.

Both of Dr. Byl's books are published by Human Kinetics.

A Space Adventure & 22 Blessings in Disguise



What child hasn't dreamed of going to space? For Monty Horton, a stowaway on the first Canadian Space Shuttle, this is no longer a dream, but a really cool way to get a great grade on his science fair project!

A Space Adventure is the first in a series that Dr. Mary Ashun, Assistant Professor of Education, is producing to raise literacy among school-aged children. Written for students aged 8-12, the Monty Horton Adventures will introduce and explain scientific concepts through fictional adventures featuring Monty. The series is part of the Science Literacy Project, an initiative of the Education Department that aims to measure the effectiveness of a "literacy through science" framework.

The research project examines the hypothesis that literacy, especially for boys, can be built through a program of reading science-infused, fiction books and an interactive web site. The project also hopes to contribute to a better understanding of how science literacy can be conceptualized, supported, and measured.

Future titles in the series will explore topics such as gravity and radioactivity. The Adventures of Monty Horton are also available through Amazon.com.

Dr. Ashun has also published the second edition of *22 Blessings in Disguise*, a tongue-in cheek way to look at all of life's quirks, detours and mishaps as a possible blessing. Written for the busy person who is realistic about the 5 minutes she has to spare and who needs just that extra 'oomph' at the beginning of their day or a good chuckle before bed, the reflections at the end of each short chapter allows the

chance to refocus to find the blessings in life. ■

22 Blessings in Disguise is also available at Amazon.com.




A Traveler Comes Home

Helen Vreugdenhil, who is joining the History Department at Redeemer full-time in 2009, graduated from Redeemer University College in 1987, obtained an MA in History from the University of Toronto, and is nearing completion of her Ph.D. Her dissertation is based on the experiences of British women missionaries in East Africa in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Prof. Vreugdenhil already has experienced the Redeemer community in several ways. After graduating with a degree in History and English, she served as the Alumni Representative on the Board of Governors and the Senate. For several years now she has been teaching courses in African, World and British history on a contract basis at Redeemer, as well as at the University of Toronto and Trent University in Peterborough. She is looking forward to leaving behind the life of an academic nomad and excited about putting down roots in one place.

When she is not writing or teaching, Prof. Vreugdenhil enjoys traveling "off the beaten track." During research trips to England, Kenya and Uganda she has always looked for opportunities to explore what each location has to offer, from tours of castles to camping safaris. She has recently spent time on the Orkney Islands, north of Scotland, and next plans to visit Newfoundland and Labrador. ■



Closing the books on a long career of service

By Susan Van Weelden

Dr. John M. Boersema, founder of the Business Program at Redeemer, retired from full-time teaching in December after 25 years of service to Redeemer.

Prior to joining the faculty here, Dr. Boersema taught at the Western (Ivey) School of Business, and held accounting and finance positions at Shell and CIBC. While at Redeemer, he taught part-time in the MBA program at McMaster (DeGroote) School of Business. He has also authored two research studies for the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

In 1995, Dr. Boersema was bold enough to suggest Redeemer start a Co-op Program, and he developed a model that would accommodate our cycled course offerings. While carrying a full teaching load, he served as Co-op Director for seven years and secured 62 co-op positions. Since graduation, those students have become public accountants, controllers, managers, bankers, business owners, and in one case, even a university professor (Dr. Boersema's successor, Professor Jonathan Kooiman).

Dr. Boersema taught students to apply Biblical principles such as "love of neighbour," "justice (righteousness, fairness, and caring for the weak)," "counting the cost" and "personal responsibility for stewardship of resources." Integrating a Christian perspective was his strength and passion as a professor, but Dr. Boersema was also highly respected by students for his knowledge in a diverse range of areas, including accounting, finance, ethics, and economics.

Dr. Boersema had a strong desire to see students develop to their full potential, which was evident in his willingness to review draft reports, his efforts to provide students with thorough academic and career advice, and the continual enhancements he made to the business curriculum. Above all, Dr. Boersema was a man of integrity who modelled his faith both in and outside of the classroom, in his teaching, research, interactions with students and personal life.

An endowed scholarship has been established (and is over 50% funded) in gratitude for Dr. Boersema's contributions to Redeemer as founder of both the Business Program and the Co-op Program. This scholarship will be awarded to an outstanding fourth-year business student based on grades and extracurricular contributions.

Dr. Boersema is working on a sequel to his book *Political-Economic Activity to the Honour of God*, which will focus on issues such as employment, the environment, and taxation. He will also teach part-time at Redeemer, all while (hopefully!) enjoying more time with family. Redeemer wishes Dr. Boersema God's richest blessings in his retirement. ■

A long-time colleague of Dr. Boersema, Prof. Susan Van Weelden in Chair of Redeemer's Department.



A New Breed of Accountant

Jonathan Kooiman '03 joined Redeemer's Business faculty this January, teaching courses in accounting, auditing and taxation. A Chartered Accountant, one of his goals is to help students make a smooth transition to a professional accounting designation.

Although his professional career prior to Redeemer was in management for various public accounting firms, Kooiman is certain he is not "your stereotypical accountant." He notes that "There has been a fundamental shift in the last 15 years due to the innovation of technology. While accountants of the past have had to spend significant time bent "over the books", with a visor, thick glasses and a large calculator, today, a significant portion of an accountant's time is spent in face to face communication with top decision makers in the world of business."

Accounting and Auditing are the methods of providing information to business leaders, investors and government to make decisions about activities associated with meeting the organization's objectives. Especially in light of the severe economic challenges that we face, he points out that "truth, honesty and full disclosure in that information are so important for these individuals to make the proper decisions."

Jonathan is married to Marsha Vanderkolk Kooiman '02 and they have three young children. What little free time he does have is enjoyed with family and friends. ■

Have degree. Now what?

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S NEW PROGRAM A HUGE SUCCESS

By Jennifer Adema '00

On March 5, Redeemer's Alumni Association enacted the classic proverb: "Two birds, one stone" through the launching of its new Circle of Excellence program. The two primary goals of the program were: first, to provide meaningful interaction between current Redeemer students and alumni (equipping students with guidance and/or mentorship to career decisions); and second, to develop and sustain a professional networking group of Redeemer alumni.

As part of a continuous pursuit of improving Alumni involvement, both with students and fellow alumni, the Association is developing a series of new programs. This particular pilot project was hosted and organized with the assistance of Redeemer's Business Department. On the evening of the event, seventeen Business alumni, all of whom have gone on to excel in their respective fields, came to campus to interact with students. The goal was to have the alumni mentor students as they begin to look at life after Redeemer. In groups of 2-3, students were able to pick up valuable information about seeking and securing employment upon their graduation, as well as to learn about a variety of jobs that may be available to them. Among the alumni were CEOs, Finance Directors, and General Managers, representing a range of interests and businesses such as marketing firms, manufacturers, and import/export companies.

The evening truly was a reflection of utmost excellence: in name, in design and ultimately in result. Chair of the Business Department Professor Susan Van Weelden emceed the evening. She

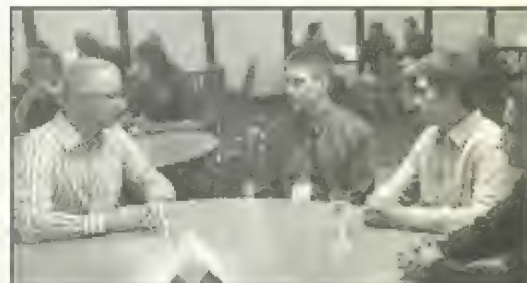


challenged all those in attendance with words from Proverbs 13, citing that true wisdom is found in those who take advice. Following dinner, a key note address was given by Kevin Adema '01, co-author of the Circle of Excellence concept.

The evening closed with a true testament of excellence – the recognition of Dr. John Boersema on his retirement. Over his years at Redeemer, Dr. Boersema aided in the sculpting of not only a premier business department but also the lives and minds of many students whose subsequent success was evident during the evening.

"Being here tonight really makes it all come alive," said current student Seth Waterman. "Seeing not only recent grads but also fully established professionals is truly inspiring, provides motivation, but ultimately, reminds us of the excellence we receive from our professors."

The Alumni Board is truly pleased with the Circle of Excellence program and plans to run future events with additional departments. ■



Business student Mary Lynn Baird talks with Stephen Witteveen '95 about opportunities in law. Stephen is partner in a law firm in Cambridge.
Middle: Fred DeHaan '92, a Senior Vice President of Operations for Acrobat Research, shares his experiences with several students.
Left: Volunteer Leanne Van Bostelen '00 ensured that the big game of musical chairs went smoothly

You Know You're Getting Older When...

A second generation of students mark another stage in Redeemer's history



Sylvia, Sarah and Martin Taekema (top) and Mary Ann and Ken Benjamins and their daughter Jantina, are the first wave of a second generation of Redeemer families.



Over the last couple of years, at least 30 children (we think; see note below) of alumni have attended Redeemer. These legacy students, as they are often referred to, have come to a place that in many ways is far different than the institution that their parents attended. But their experiences also share some similarities.

Sylvia DeBruyne Taekema graduated with Redeemer's pioneer class in 1986. During her time at Redeemer, she often heard the words Learning is for Serving, which served as Redeemer's motto. "It's spilled over now into Life is for Serving – serving God and others around us. One of the most precious things about Redeemer is that we can freely proclaim there the Lordship of Christ over all of life."

Sylvia and her husband Martin's daughter Sarah Taekema '11 is majoring in Visual Art (and potentially History), and is in the Concurrent Education program. One of the biggest differences in her experiences at Redeemer is the breadth of courses that are available. For example, Sarah is currently in England, participating in the ABU-Oxford Programme. "I have a superb group of friends and I've had some of the most incredible experiences. The only thing that I'm mildly disappointed about is that new History classes are being added just as I'm completing my program."

Sylvia notes that "coursework at Redeemer adheres to high academic standards rooted in the faith that one serves Christ in all things. I know Sarah experiences this as well, and I'm glad about

that. Redeemer is a place where students are still challenged to acknowledge and accept God's call in their life and encouraged to live it out."

Ken and Mary Ann VanStarkenburgh Benjamins were the first married couple to graduate together in 1988. Mary Ann notes the importance of the faith perspective of faculty. "Redeemer gave us such a firm grounding in a Reformed Christian world and life view. It expanded how we view our kingdom tasks in this world of spreading the gospel and living for Christ in everything we do. The sense of community and friendships we formed there are carried forward even to today. And that includes relationships developed with faculty, in and out of the classroom."

Their daughter Jantina Benjamins '11, an Honours English Major with a French Minor, has witnessed the influence of faculty mentors in the lives of her parents. "They care about their students and are skilled in their field. They are great role models. My dad's faculty advisor really encouraged him to look into the ministry. I think it's great that his professors were so influential in his life."

There are some gaps in Redeemer's records from its early days that we would like to fill. If you are an alumna/us who has a son or daughter studying at Redeemer, would you please send an email to alumnioffice@redeemer.ca with your name (maiden name as well, if applicable) and his or her name. Thank you!

Grad School 101

A keen group of current students mined the experiences of alumni and faculty during a panel discussion relating to graduate studies. This annual discussion, hosted by the Alumni Association, is geared to students who are considering the possibility of graduate school after Redeemer.

John Krueger, Redeemer's Career and Placement Coordinator, opened the session by providing some of the basic information required when considering grad school. Following his remarks, panel moderator Micah van Dijk '05, Activities and Orientation Coordinator, led a diverse and engaging discussion.

The alumni and faculty participants were keen to share their experiences on a variety of topics: the amount of "hands-on" work in grad programs, the pros and cons of taking time off between undergrad and graduate programs, balancing the work load and the application process.

The graduates spoke of how well prepared they were for graduate school programs. Alumni have often commented to their Redeemer professors that other grad school students look to Redeemer grads as leaders for their strong work ethic and high academic standards. Alumni also noted that Redeemer's liberal arts structure provides them with a greater sense of historical context.

Special thanks to faculty guests, Professors David Koyzis (Political Science) and Kevin Flatt (History). Alumni panel participants were Theresa Merrick '08 (English), Marieke VanWalderveen '06 (Science), Maria Vanderspek '03 (Business), and Bill DeJong '93 (History/Sociology). ■

14th Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Save the date and start recruiting a foursome...this year's tournament will be bigger and better than ever!

Alumni eNews

Subscribe today to receive a monthly alumni update. Send an email to majordomo@redeemer.ca with nothing in the subject line and only the following text in the body of the email: `subscribe alumninews`. This newsletter is a new initiative and positive feedback is appreciated! Comments/suggestions may be emailed to vlouter@redeemer.ca

Alumni Association Board 2008/2009



From back left: JD Alkema '97, Brian Harskamp '04, Nathaniel Vandendool '08, Alumni Representative to the Board of Governors Arjan Vos '96, Jennifer Adema '00, President Sharon Vander Meulen '89, Alumni Director Valerie Louter '95, Jennifer DeVries '01, Elizabeth Teeninga '02, Vanessa Chiang '05. Missing is Mark Sinke '04

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP TEAM?

We're looking for three Members-at-Large to serve the Alumni Association starting September, 2009. Please email a statement of interest to vlouter@redeemer.ca.

The Alumni Board meets five times per year. The role of a board member is to advance the mission of the Alumni Association. The key functions related to this are to a) offer advice and consent to the Development Director, Alumni and b) represent the Alumni Board.

We are also recruiting for an Alumni Representative to the Academic Senate. The Senate is in charge of all academic matters, including faculty hiring, departmental reviews, any changes to the program of studies, etc. Senate meets 4 or 5 times per academic year. We are looking for a representative with a Master's Degree or higher, to finish a term which ends in 2010 and then to fulfill a new 3-year term. The Alumni Representative to the Senate acts as a liaison between the Alumni Board and the Senate. ■

An Artistic Celebration of Advent



This past December, Jennifer Lynn Haas '08 and Sarah Dawn Bokma '08 organized *The Coming Light*, an exhibit of young Christian artists and musicians who shared their creative gifts to celebrate Advent and Christmas.

Hosted by the Free-way Café, non-profit, fair trade coffee house and community commons in Hamilton, the exhibit also featured a number of other alumni artists and musicians reflecting on such themes as Advent, the Incarnation, light, birth, and glory.

Proceeds of what is hoped will be an annual event went towards supporting Jennifer Lynn's internship in Hamilton with New City, a local church plant, and Sarah Dawn's internship in Uganda where she is using art as a means to counsel people and provide sustainability. ■

Alumnus receives Juno Award Nomination



For the past three years, Dave de Smit '03 has been touring all over North America playing drums in the Christian pop/rock band 'Article One.' De Smit has found that his career conveniently combines his love for God, music, people and travel. Although he enjoys the satisfaction of performing an exciting line-up of music at a concert, what encourages him most about his path has been building relationships with people from all walks of life across North America.

The Juno Award nomination – for Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year – came as a welcome surprise to de Smit and his band-mates this year. "In order to get this far in the music industry, we have had to work very hard, and rise confidently above the uncertainty that comes with taking risks. But we have been blessed and I am proud of our music and of the fact that our work is receiving recognition."

Although the current state of the economy and the constantly changing music industry has affected their band financially, de Smit is confident in God's supervision and is excited to continue living his dream.

To hear some tunes and check out tour information, visit Article One's website at <http://www.articleonemusic.com>. ■

Personal Touch

» **Kevin Adema '01 and Jennifer**

Dykhous Adema '00 are pleased to announce the arrival of their third child, Sarah Linnae. She was born on December 27, 2008, and is a little sister for Emily Rebecca (5 yrs.) and Ryan Matthew (almost 3). Kevin is owner and manager of Incipit Integrated Communications, a marketing firm in Burlington, Ontario while Jen is at home raising their three small children. She is also a member of the Alumni Board.

» With thanksgiving in their hearts to God,

Lara Schat-Zeyl '94 and Jeremy Zeyl x01 are thrilled to announce the birth of Isaiah Jacob Douwe Zeyl, born January 6, 2009 at 10 lbs and 22 1/2 inches long. For any old friends and dormies who may want more information (or to see pretty darn cute pictures:), Lara can be reached at lschat@hotmail.com.

» **Samuel Martin '05** has completed a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto and is now pursuing a Ph.D. in English at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. There he is studying contemporary Atlantic Canadian authors such as David Adams Richards, Alistair MacLeod, Michael Crummey and Wayne Johnston. Samuel_martin1983@yahoo.ca

» **Shannon Spike '02** has completed a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Guelph and a Bachelor of Education from Wilfred Laurier University. She is currently a Primary/Junior teacher and hopes to pursue her Ph.D. in Education Policy Development. smspike@hotmail.com

» **Ian '04 and Rosine Vanderkooy Cubitt '02** are happy parents of Samuel Rohan, born August 6, 2008. They are in Halifax where Ian is working as a corporate tax specialist with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Rosine graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design in April; she enjoys painting and being a mom to Samuel.

The villagers of Anatevka are forced to leave their homes. Brandon Kortleve (left) and Stephen Siemens (as Motel, right) lead the exodus as part of the final scene of *Fiddler on the Roof*, presented by Redeemer's Theatre Arts Department in February 2009. More than 3000 patrons took in the popular musical, which featured Redeemer faculty, staff, students and supporters.

Discover

A WARM WELCOME



Redeemer University College is the perfect location for your next conference or special event. Our beautiful 86 acre campus features affordable accommodations, modern meeting spaces and full catering services. Contact Campus Services to book your next event.



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